

To: Spalding, Curt[Spalding.Curt@epa.gov]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Tue 3/1/2016 7:55:38 PM
Subject: FW: Breaking Issue North Bennington water contamination

I am sure you have seen this chain, but wanted to make sure. Feel free to give me a call if I can be of assistance or explain how this is being handled in Hoosick falls and Petersburg. The Vermont company is now owned by saint gobaine, the same company that owns the Hoosick falls facility.

From: Shore, Berry
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:27 PM
To: Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>; McCabe, Catherine <McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov>; Plevin, Lisa <Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Bowser, Andre <Bowser.Andre@epa.gov>; McGowan, Michael <McGowan.Michael@epa.gov>; Romanowski, Larisa <Romanowski.Larisa@epa.gov>
Subject: Breaking Issue North Bennington water contamination

FYI Judith:

The note below is from my counterpart in Reg. 1. HQ was copied.

I believe the SOV acronym used below means State of Vermont.

From: Brown, Rudy
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Lovely, William <Lovely.William@epa.gov>; Murphy, Jim <Murphy.Jim@epa.gov>; Gutro, Doug <Gutro.Doug@epa.gov>
Cc: Downing, Jane <Downing.Jane@epa.gov>; Melanson, Kate <Melanson.Kate@epa.gov>; Bender, Emily <Bender.Emily@epa.gov>; Shore, Berry <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>; Levine, Carolyn <Levine.Carolyn@epa.gov>; Distefano, Nichole <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: North Bennington water contamination

Below is the e-mail from Senator Sanders staff.

From: Pero, Haley (Sanders) [mailto:Haley_Pero@sanders.senate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:10 PM
To: Twigg, George <George.Twigg@mail.house.gov>; Berry, Tom (Leahy) <Tom_Berry@leahy.senate.gov>; Brown, Rudy <Brown.Rudy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: North Bennington water contamination

Echoing George, I'd also be interested in getting more info about EPA's engagement. Thanks in advance for any info you can provide.

From: Twigg, George [<mailto:George.Twigg@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:08 PM
To: Berry, Tom (Leahy) <Tom_Berry@leahy.senate.gov>; Brown, Rudy <Brown.Rudy@epa.gov>
Cc: Pero, Haley (Sanders) <Haley_Pero@sanders.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: North Bennington water contamination

Rudy, just adding to Tom's note here, our understanding is that SOV officials were planning to speak with Curt S yesterday about this matter, so hopefully EPA is fully-briefed on this situation now.

The issue of financial support for testing may be an area where we would be looking to EPA for assistance. As you may know, the cost to test for PFOA in wells is about \$1000/each. Thus far the company that owns the Chem Fab plant has voluntarily agreed to pay for testing, but it's not clear how long that will last or how extensive it will be. There may also be additional health screening costs for individuals whose wells were found to be contaminated – potentially including blood tests and tissue samples. There would be costs associated with these measures as well. Note that this is not a formal request for this assistance at this point, however I want to make sure you are aware of the nature of assistance that might be needed on this specific front, above and beyond whatever other assistance (technical, etc.) that the State might ultimately seek from EPA.

Lastly, I confess to myself being a bit murky as to how EPA is engaging on this matter in coordination with the related situation over in NY. Speaking for myself, I'd be interested in

getting an overview of EPA's approach and engagement on this matter if you thought that was something you could assist with?

Thanks much,

George

From: Berry, Tom (Leahy) [mailto:Tom_Berry@leahy.senate.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 12:44 PM

To: Brown, Rudy

Cc: Pero, Haley (Sanders); Twigg, George

Subject: North Bennington water contamination

Rudy: I guess that you may be tracking this fast moving case. It is related to the expanding issues in Hoosick Falls NY (see story in today's NY Times). Right where EPA Region 1 meets Region 2.

We have been briefed by the State of Vermont this morning and were pleased (not surprised) to hear that the EPA has been responsive and helpful to the VT DEC and local concerns.

I did want to send this note to let you know that the Vermont Congressional offices will be tracking this closely, and as that you let us know of any relevant developments/decisions/involvement by EPA Region 1.

One thing that I know VT DEC has discussed with the EPA is assistance with the expanding number of wells that need to be tested. This is an expensive analysis needing to be done out-of-state for each sample and I'm sure that the State will be appreciated of any funding or technical assistance available from the EPA as they work

through this urgent problem.

Thanks again for your help.

Tom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 29, 2016

Update on North Bennington Situation

MONTPELIER – Gov. Peter Shumlin today provided an update on the situation in North Bennington. Test results received last Thursday indicated that while there is no contamination of the public water source, five private wells in North Bennington showed varying levels of a potentially harmful chemical called PFOA.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) plans to test an additional 80 to 100 private wells located in a 1.5 mile radius surrounding the former Chem Fab plant in North Bennington. Officials are still working to determine the exact cause of the contamination, but concerns in North Bennington were sparked by reports of contamination caused by a similar plant in Hoosick Falls N.Y.

Vermont DEC officials will travel door to door to collect testing samples in the coming days. The test to determine PFOA levels takes approximately two weeks.

Residents with wells being tested should not drink the water while results are pending. Bottled water will be provided and a delivery schedule will be worked out in the coming days. In the meantime, residents can pick up bottled water at the Village Variety Store located at 9 Route 67 West in North Bennington. In addition, starting this afternoon there will be two water tanks from which residents can draw water on the corner of Scary Lane and Rt 67 and McCaters Park at the Henry Bridge.

The Health Department is committed to arranging blood tests for PFOA for people who have contaminated wells, but stresses that the number one priority is to stop the exposure and consult with your health care provider.

"If your well is contaminated, do not use the water for drinking, preparing food, cooking, or brushing teeth," said Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD. "We recommend that you talk with your health care provider to consider having the routine blood tests for health conditions that may be treatable now."

The Health Department has alerted and provided guidance to health care providers in the Bennington and Rutland area. The Health Department has produced a fact sheet about PFOA and potential health impacts, which is attached to this release.

Vermont officials held a public meeting Friday in North Bennington. Officials will also be on hand this evening at 6 p.m. during Bennington's Town Meeting.

Tom Berry, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy

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